

Patricia and Ted Riquinha
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September 5, 2013

Corporation of the City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, ON

Sent via email to: Lauren Kucera, lkucera@London.ca and Jackie Martin, jmartin@london.ca

Attn: Civic Works Committee

Chair: Joe Swan,
Members: Matt Brown
Stephen Orser
Harold Usher
Paul Van Meerbergen

RE: Traffic signal at the intersection of Dalmagarry Road and Fanshawe Park Road West

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to you today to ask for your support for the immediate installation of a traffic light at the corner of Dalmagarry Road and Fanshawe Park Road West to allow for safe student passage. As you are aware St. Andre Bessette Catholic Secondary School opened Tuesday, September 3, 2013. We are very concerned that the city has not yet facilitated a cross walk of any kind immediately south of the school facing Fanshawe Park Rd.

A large number of the 320 students this fall live in the neighborhoods immediately south of Fanshawe Park Rd. and in the surrounding southerly neighborhoods. Many kids will be walking or riding their bikes to and from school each day. The straight line path of least resistance for these teenage kids will be north up the construction road leading to the school and directly across Fanshawe Park Rd. to the rear entrance of the school via the football field. In fact, the school has 2 openings in their fenced area facing Fanshawe at both corner ends to facilitate student pedestrian traffic. The construction road to the south of the school is gated off but will be a through street in the next few months as the final phase opens up soon. For now the kids are being instructed to walk an additional 20 minutes east to Aldersbrook Gate, cross at the lights, then back west to the school. Alternatively, walk an additional 20 minutes west to the Walmart lights then back east to the school. This sounds nice on paper, but we are talking about teenage kids who will simply look for the most direct route which again is through the construction road.

We noticed the speed limit has recently been reduced along this corridor in anticipation of the school opening. This is a good start but let's be honest, Fanshawe Park Rd. is a highway at the best of times especially first thing in the morning when commuters are heading to work at the same time the kids are heading to school, and after school as commuters head home from work.

After numerous calls and conversations with school officials, the city, and the developer, we have been told that there is not even a tender out for a crosswalk project to commence yet and that once the process starts it could take several more months for anything to happen. It's our understanding that all parties involved are waiting for the school and the area to become more built up before the expense is warranted or "cost effective" as the school is only scheduled to open with grade 9 and 10 this year. We hope this is not the case since the safety of the initial kids should not become a "cost savings measure" until the property tax revenue of a fully developed neighborhood is established. By this time the initial wave of kids will have (hopefully) graduated safely.

We have consulted with many equally concerned neighbours, families, teachers, and school council members. All parties involved agree that the safety of our children is at risk. Attached please find a brief list of parent supporters compiled simply within minutes just today. If necessary, we could compile a much more comprehensive list to support our concerns. We respectfully ask that you take whatever steps are necessary to make this a priority before a preventable accident occurs much like the death of a Toronto teen just this week.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Patricia and Ted Riquinha
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